

Application Number 10/029,355
Amendment dated February 3, 2005
Responsive to Office Action mailed November 3, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:
receiving sterilization process information from a sterilization facility via a computer network;
arranging the sterilization process information received from the facility to illustrate compliance with a sterilization process standard;
generating a report that includes the arranged based on the received information; and
providing a network client with access to the report via the computer network, wherein the network client is associated with a reviewer that analyzes the report to evaluate compliance with the sterilization process standard.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein providing access to the report includes transmitting the report to the network client via the computer network.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein providing access to the report includes serving a document containing the report upon request by the network client.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the document is a web page.

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein arranging sterilization process information and generating a report includes archiving the sterilization process information, and arranging the sterilization process information and generating the report ~~based on the sterilization process information~~ upon request by the network client.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the network client is a regulatory agency or an audit organization.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the report identifies individual sterilization loads and load contents.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 9, wherein the report includes sterilization processing characteristics for the individual sterilization loads, the sterilization processing characteristics for each load including at least one of type of sterilizer, sterilizer identification, cycle time, sterilization time, temperature, pressure, humidity and sterilant concentration.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein receiving sterilization process information includes receiving sterilization process information from multiple sterilization facilities, and generating a report includes generating reports for the multiple sterilization facilities.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11, wherein generating thea report includes generating thea report ~~to that~~ integrates sterilization process information received from two or more of the sterilization facilities.

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Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization
facility based on the sterilization process information received from the sterilization facility; and
processing an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to
the sterilization facility based on the determination.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein the sterilization material includes
at least one of sterilant, pack material, and indicators.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving an order for sterilization material from the sterilization facility; and
processing the order to direct delivery of the sterilization material to the sterilization
facility.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing access to information relating to sterilization materials;
providing access to information relating to sterilization processes; and
providing interactive communication between technical personnel knowledgeable in
sterilization processes and sterilization facility personnel.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
accumulating information concerning best practices and trends in sterilization processing
from multiple network clients; and
providing access to the best practices and trends information via the network.

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Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A system comprising:
a client computer, associated with a sterilization facility, that transmits sterilization process information via a computer network; and
a network server that receives the sterilization process information from the client computer via the computer network, arranges the sterilization process information received from the client computer to illustrate compliance with a sterilization process standard, generates a report that includes the arranged information based on the received information, and provides a network client with access to the report via the computer network, wherein the network client is associated with a reviewer that analyzes the report to evaluate compliance with the sterilization process standard.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

Claim 20 (Original): The system of claim 18, wherein the network server provides access to the report by transmitting the report to the network client via the computer network.

Claim 21 (Original): The system of claim 18, wherein the network server provides access to the report by serving a document containing the report upon request by the network client.

Claim 22 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the document is a web page.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 18, wherein the network server archives the sterilization process information, and arranges the sterilization process information and generates the reports upon request by the network client.

Claim 24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25 (Original): The system of claim 18, wherein the network client is a regulatory agency or an audit organization.

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Claim 26 (Original): The system of claim 18, wherein the report identifies individual sterilization loads and load contents.

Claim 27 (Original): The system of claim 26, wherein the report includes sterilization processing characteristics for the individual sterilization loads, the sterilization processing characteristics for each load including at least one of type of sterilizer, sterilizer identification, cycle time, sterilization time, temperature, pressure, humidity and sterilant concentration.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 18, wherein the system client-computer includes multiple client computers that transmit sterilization process information for multiple sterilization facilities, and the network server generates multiple reports for the multiple sterilization facilities.

Claim 29 (Original): The system of claim 28, wherein the network server generates a report that integrates sterilization process information received from client computers associated with two or more of the sterilization facilities.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 18, wherein the network server determines consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information received from the sterilization facility, and processes an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination.

Claim 31 (Original): The system of claim 30, wherein the sterilization material includes at least one of sterilant, pack material, and indicators.

Claim 32 (Original): The system of claim 30, wherein the network server receives an order for sterilization material from the sterilization facility, and processes the order to direct delivery of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility.

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Claim 33 (Original): The system of claim 30, wherein the network server provides access to information relating to sterilization materials, access to information relating to sterilization processes, and interactive communication between technical personnel knowledgeable in sterilization processes and sterilization facility personnel.

Claim 34 (Original): The system of claim 18, wherein the network server accumulates information concerning best practices and trends in sterilization processing from multiple network clients, and provides access to the best practices and trends information via the network.

Claim 35 (Original): A method comprising:
receiving sterilization process information from a sterilization facility via a computer network;
determining consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information; and
processing an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination.

Claim 36 (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization material includes at least one of sterilant, pack material, and indicators.

Claim 37 (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization material includes electronic information for generation of a printed indicator, the method further comprising transmitting the electronic information to the client via the computer network.

Claim 38 (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization material includes self-indicating ink, the method further comprising delivering a quantity of the ink to the client.

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Claim 39 (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization process information includes characteristics of a sterilization process, the method further comprising identifying a type of the sterilization material based on the characteristics of the sterilization process.

Claim 40 (Original): A system comprising:
a client computer, associated with a sterilization facility, that transmits sterilization process information via a computer network; and
a network server that receives the sterilization process information from the client computer via the computer network, determines consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information, and processes an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination.

Claim 41 (Original): The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization material includes at least one of sterilant, pack material, and indicators.

Claim 42 (Original): The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization material includes electronic information for generation of a printed indicator, and the network server transmits the electronic information to the client via the computer network.

Claim 43 (Original): The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization material includes self-indicating ink, and the network server processes an order for delivery of a quantity of the ink to the client.

Claim 44 (Original): The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization process information includes characteristics of a sterilization process, and the network server identifies a type of the sterilization material based on the characteristics of the sterilization process.

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Claim 45 (Original): A method comprising:
receiving sterilization process information from a sterilization facility via a computer network;
determining consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;
processing an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination;
scheduling maintenance for sterilization equipment associated with the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;
generating a report that indicates compliance with sterilization process standards based on the sterilization process information; and
providing a reviewer with access to the report via the computer network.

Claim 46 (Original): The method of claim 45, wherein the reviewer is a regulatory agency or an audit organization.

Claim 47 (Original): The method of claim 45, wherein the report identifies individual sterilization loads and load contents, and the report includes sterilization processing characteristics for the individual sterilization loads, the sterilization processing characteristics for each load including type of sterilizer, sterilizer identification, cycle time, sterilization time, temperature, and pressure.

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Claim 48 (Original): A system comprising:
a client computer, associated with a sterilization facility, that transmits sterilization process information via a computer network; and
a network server that:
determines consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;
processes an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination;
schedules maintenance for sterilization equipment associated with the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;
generates a report that indicates compliance with sterilization process standards based on the sterilization process information; and
provides a reviewer with access to the report via the computer network.

Claim 49 (Original): The method of claim 48, wherein the reviewer is a regulatory agency or an audit organization.

Claim 50 (Original): The method of claim 48, wherein the report identifies individual sterilization loads and load contents, and the report includes sterilization processing characteristics for the individual sterilization loads, the sterilization processing characteristics for each load including type of sterilizer, sterilizer identification, cycle time, sterilization time, temperature, and pressure.

Claim 51 (Cancelled).

Claim 52 (Cancelled).

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Claim 53 (New): A method comprising:
providing access to information relating to sterilization materials via a computer network;
providing access to information relating to sterilization processes via the computer network; and
providing interactive communication between technical personnel knowledgeable in sterilization processes and personnel of a sterilization facility via the network.

Claim 54 (New): A system comprising:
a client computer associated with a sterilization facility; and
a network server that provides access to information relating to sterilization materials and sterilization processes via the client computer and a computer network, and provides interactive communication between technical personnel knowledgeable in sterilization processes and personnel of the sterilization facility via the client computers and the computer network.

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